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UNCLAS AMMAN 008601

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A
TAGS: PTER ASEC JO
SUBJECT: JORDAN INDICTS ZARQAWI - COMMUTES HIJAZI DEATH
SENTENCE

REF: A. AMMAN 7960

¶B. AMMAN 6212
¶C. AMMAN 3352
¶D. AMMAN 2645

SUMMARY

¶11. (U) The Jordanian State Security Court indicted Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and 12 others October 17 for plotting to bomb the U.S. Embassy and GOJ targets in Amman. Separately, the Court of Cassation commuted the death sentence of Raed Hijazi October 11 to 20 years with labor. End Summary.

ZARQAWI INDICTMENT

¶12. (U) The indictment of Jordanian fugitive Abu Musab al-Zarqawi and 12 associates by the State Security Court received front-page coverage in the local press. The court will try Zarqawi and three other suspects in absentia, along with the remaining nine suspects currently in Jordanian custody. The trial is expected to begin in November. In April, Zarqawi received a death sentence in absentia for his role in the October 2002 assassination of USAID official Laurence Foley.

HIJAZI DEATH SENTENCE COMMUTED

¶13. (U) The Court of Cassation commuted the death sentence of convicted terrorist Raed Hijazi October 11 to 20 years with labor. Originally convicted in September 2000 for plotting terrorist attacks during the millennium celebrations, Hijazi appealed multiple times. The October 11 decision of the Court of Cassation is final and can not be appealed. Hijazi holds Jordanian and American citizenship as he was born in San Jose, California.

¶14. (U) Baghdad minimize considered.

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